

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Christine Glaser, Toby Strout, Cynthia Shultz, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Jeff Mease, Jim Sherman, Kent Berglund and Steven Ashkin
Staff Members: Adam Wason
Regrets: Robert Bent and Dave Rollo

Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. The minutes from 3/11/08 and 4/8/08 were unanimously approved by the commission.

Pubic Comment

Melissa Henige and Andrew Davis announced that they taking a cross-country bicycle tour. During there 10 week trip they will visit approximately 70 sites that are related to sustainable design and sustainability in general. During the journey they will look to meet and interview leaders in the sustainability movement. A blog of their journey will be available at their website (www.chaninggearsmovies.com) along with episodes that they will be filming through-out the trip.

Dick Stumpner advocated for new requirements in energy efficiency for new home construction. He suggested updating the local building code with mandates on energy-efficiency.

Steve Forrest announced that Bloomington Transportation Options for People will be hosting Robert McCormick as a speaker on the topics of water quality and the built environment. He also spoke about the interfaith group Earth Cares and their promotion of a program for “Bike to Service” month.

Announcements and Comments

Cynthia Shultz announced that the second round of the EathCares Carbon Workshop will take place on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons throughout the month of May and June.

Jeff Mease announced that on Thursday May 15th, Bloomington Brewing Company will be releasing a new summer beer, Vision Weiss, with all of the proceeds from the sale of this beer going to MiddleWay House.

Jim Sherman discussed a new book called “Nudge.” Jim talked about how the book was written by behavioral scientists that is an example of libertarian paternalism. He gave examples of how forced or required actions were not the point to this, but by providing reinforcement to positive actions the resulted in the desired outcomes.

Christine Glaser reported that a meeting took place on Monday May 6th to discuss the feasibility of creating a local branch of the Indiana State Chapter of the US Green Building Concil. The meeting was being coordinated by Amanda Shaw. Christine reported that the meeting involved local developers, architects, the Chamber of Commerce, an Indiana State Representative as well as architects and engineers from Indiana University and that overall the meeting was positive with the group deciding to continue moving forward with a local branch.

Steve Ashkin spoke about the concept of Integrated Pest Management and how it has been slow to develop in the pest management industry due to the business model. He spoke about how the business model of janitorial companies is the ideal partner for IPM programs. He described a meeting hosted by the EPA partnership programs and the industry leaders in both janitorial services and pest management. He talked about how the janitorial companies bought into the concept with the overall goal of changing the entire pest management industry.

John Hamilton announced that he represented the commission as a speaker at SPEA. At the event, hosted by a student environmental group was a representative of Cummins Inc. John stated that it was a good event and had about 50 people in attendance.

Transportation Initiative Letter for Mayor Kruzan

As an initiative of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GGEs) joint sub-committee of both the Environmental Commission and the Commission on Sustainability, the transportation initiative proposal to Mayor Kruzan is discussed. Christine Glaser spoke about the impact that transportation has on the overall emissions of GGEs and that in order to try to meet the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (USMCPA) of a 7% reduction of GGEs below 1990 levels a major shift in transportation modes is a necessary step.

Christine spoke of the urgent nature of this issue based on the lengthy timeframe in which initiatives for lowering GGEs take to implement. It is suggested that a cooperative effort amongst the City, County, State, and Indiana University would be a positive step in understanding how to effectively reach the USMCPA goals. The letter specifically asks Mayor Kruzan to support this cooperative effort in redefining transportation planning, codes, and initiatives, as well as to coordinate a meeting that would produce a comprehensive plan for the overall reduction of vehicle miles traveled.

In reaction to the letter John Hamilton suggests, as is part of the Initiatives Committee plans, to ask that a transportation summit be considered in the near future. John mentioned that the momentum for a summit is currently in place, but he did not know if a fundamental change in the structure of City Government to create a Transportation Department was feasible.

Steve Ashkin stated that he felt that he did not understand all of the issues enough to participate in the decision making process of this report.

George Huntington voiced his support for sending the letter to Mayor Kruzan. He supports the overall goal of the letter and suggests that a list of options be presented, and then also describe what this group sees as the ideal outcomes of implementing specific options. He feels as though a summit will allow the experts in the field find solutions to the issues.

Christine thanked the commission for their feedback and wants to make sure that the letter is not too prescriptive.

Discussion of Water Conservation Partnerships

The Utilities Systems Board voted during their May 12, 2008 meeting to move forward with a plant expansion project at the Monroe Water Treatment Plant that would increase the plant's capacity to providing drinking water to the community from 24 to 30 million gallons per day. The commission has previously stated its desire to work with the City of Bloomington Utilities Department on water conservation programs. Previously suggested ideas were to work with the

Utilities Department in a billing program that informs households of how their water usage compares with other households of similar size.

Wittman Hydro Planning Associates water conservation plan, that was also approved at the May 12, 2008 meeting of the Utilities Service Board was discussed. Adam Wason gave a brief overview of what the main areas of concentration would be in this conservation plan.

John Hamilton recognizes that this is a very complicated and controversial issue. John talks about how this is a two-part issue in the sense that an additional water main from the plant to the edge of City limits and also a capacity expansion of the plant itself. John talks about how the commission could play a role in this decision-making process and that it would be appropriate for the commission to suggest a conservation plan a cost-benefit analysis of expansion versus conservation.

The commission agreed that expansion and conservation are not mutually exclusive. The commitment to an investment in conservation is not spelled out the Long-Range Water Capital Plan of the Utilities Department and that the commission should support a "balanced approach" with resources to both expansion and conservation.

The commission unanimously supported putting forth a statement that outlines the concept of putting resources to both conservation and future expansion when it is needed. The following statement was sent to City Council on April 13, 2008.

To City Council Members:

Last evening the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability met and discussed the proposed expansion of the city's water treatment facility. BCOS members acknowledged that we are not experts on many of the technical issues. We however adopted the following resolution unanimously:

"The Commission on Sustainability believes that it is critical to have a commitment to a balanced approach in meeting Bloomington's water needs, which includes capacity building and conservation with an explicit commitment and priority in the capital investment and strategic plan to conservation."

Speaking personally as chair of BCOS, I believe this statement reflects a view that our community must make a stronger and more explicit commitment to resource conservation at least at the same time

as (and preferably before) making a commitment to capacity expansion.

In particular, I believe that it reflects the view that at least contemporaneously with committing tens of millions of dollars to capacity expansion, there should be a significant monetary commitment to conservation as well, based upon a serious cost-benefit analysis of and plan for demand management options.

We agreed that we would provide the resolution to the city council, as you consider the expansion plans, and would welcome further discussion.

Thank you for your attention.

*John Hamilton
Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability*

Presentation on Middle Way House Community Kitchen

Charlotte Zietlow was asked by the commission to present on the Middle Way House Community Kitchen Incubator Project. Ms. Zietlow, Economic Development Coordinator for Middle Way House, informs the commission that Middle Way House has received a three-year grant from the US Department of Agriculture to help support the Community Kitchen project.

Charlotte spoke about the concept of a community based kitchen incubator that would allow local food producers to produce value added products in a commercial kitchen that is a shared facility accommodating many users on a time-shared fee basis.

Overall the commission supports the concept of local food in the sustainability movement and would like to offer support to this project where it is deemed feasible.

Reports from Staff

Adam Wason reports that the B-Line ground breaking will be on May 20th at 11 am.

He also informs the commission that the Indiana Recycling Commission will be at the Convention Center on May 20th and 21st. Registration will be the 19th. Duke Energy will be giving scholarships to attend the event. For more information on this event contact Adam.

Committee Reports

Sustainability Assessment Report committee passed out a draft to each member. They would like to finalize input from the commission by the next meeting. There will be an email with the deadline for input and what areas to look at.

Initiatives Committee Report: Duke has approved a \$1000 grant to purchase CFL bulbs. Also, there was a CFL give away event on Earth Day. It was very successful and they have 500 bulbs left to give away at a future event. John Hamilton discussed ideas that were talked about during the Initiatives meeting, such as: tying initiatives to indicators, CFLs projects, and partnering to lead a transportation summit.

Education Committee Report: Christine mentioned three up-coming presentations: May 15th about green interiors, May 22nd, and May 29th about retrofitting homes with energy efficiency in mind.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting of the commission is on June 10th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of City Hall.